

CLEAN VERSION OF PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A golf cup apparatus comprising:

β1 a golf cup comprising a cylinder extending from a top surface to a bottom surface, the golf cup including a wall extending between the top surface and the bottom surface, the cup wall defined by an interior surface and an exterior surface; and

a cup sleeve disposed within the golf cup, the sleeve comprising a one-piece, seamless cylinder having an open circular top end and an open circular bottom end and the cup sleeve abutting the interior surface of the golf cup without interfering with a golf ball dropping within the golf cup.

2. The golf cup apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the sleeve extends from the top surface of the golf cup to the bottom surface of the golf cup.

3. The golf cup apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the sleeve extends partially between the top surface and the bottom surface of the golf cup.

8. The golf cup apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a notch disposed within the cup sleeve.

9. The golf cup apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the golf cup is formed of metal.

11. The golf cup apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the sleeve is coupled with the golf cup.

12. The golf cup apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the sleeve is formed of extruded material.

13. The golf cup apparatus as recited in claim 1, the golf cup further comprising a ridge adapted for retaining the sleeve therein.

14. The golf cup apparatus as recited in claim 1, the cup sleeve extending from a first end to a second end, the first end disposed adjacent to the top surface of the golf cup and the second end disposed adjacent to the bottom surface of the golf cup, wherein the first end has a larger diameter than the second end and the cup sleeve has a conical shape.

20. (Amended) A golf cup apparatus comprising:

B2 a metal golf cup comprising a cylinder extending from a top surface to a bottom surface, the bottom surface including flag retention features therein, the metal golf cup defined by an interior surface and an exterior surface, the metal golf cup including sleeve retention features, the sleeve retention features including an annular lip disposed on the interior surface; and

a cup sleeve disposed within the metal golf cup, the sleeve comprising a one-piece, seamless plastic cylinder defined in outer surface by an outer surface; the plastic cylinder disposed within the metal cup such that the outer surface of the plastic cylinder rests against the interior surface of the metal golf cup in an interference fit therebetween and a top edge surface of the sleeve abuts a bottom surface of the annular lip.

22. A golf cup sleeve comprising:

a cylindrical sleeve having an outer diameter dimensioned to fit against an inner surface of a golf cup and an inner diameter dimensioned so as not to interfere with a golf ball dropping within the golf cup, the cylindrical sleeve having a one-piece, seamless form wherein the cylindrical sleeve presents a substantially smooth inner surface when the cylindrical sleeve is mounted within the golf cup.

23. The golf cup sleeve of claim 22, wherein the cylindrical sleeve includes a top edge adapted to be matingly fitted against a lip extending from an inner surface of the golf cup.

24. The golf cup sleeve of claim 22, wherein the cylindrical sleeve includes a notch in an upper edge of the sleeve for inserting a tool between the cylindrical sleeve and the golf cup when the cylindrical

sleeve is mounted within the golf cup to allow the cylindrical sleeve to be removed from the golf cup.

25. A golf cup apparatus comprising:

a golf cup having an inner surface defining a golf cup sleeve mounting area; and
a golf cup sleeve adapted to fit within the golf cup sleeve mounting area without interfering with a golf ball dropping within the golf cup, wherein the golf cup sleeve includes an unbroken cylindrical sleeve having an outer diameter dimensioned to fit against the inner surface of the golf cup.

26. The golf cup apparatus of claim 25, wherein the golf cup includes a lip extending from an inner surface of the golf cup and wherein the cylindrical sleeve includes a top edge adapted to be matingly fitted against the lip

27. The golf cup apparatus of claim 25, wherein the cylindrical sleeve presents a substantially smooth inner surface when the cylindrical sleeve is mounted within the golf cup.

28. The golf cup apparatus of claim 25, wherein the cylindrical sleeve includes a notch in an upper edge of the sleeve for inserting an instrument between the cylindrical sleeve and the golf cup when the cylindrical sleeve is mounted within the golf cup.

B3 29. (Amended) A method of inserting a golf cup sleeve into a golf cup, the method comprising:
placing a one-piece, seamless cylindrical golf cup sleeve into a golf cup; and
releasing the golf cup sleeve so that an outer surface of the golf cup sleeve is forced against an inner surface of the golf cup and an inner surface of the golf cup sleeve does not interfere with a golf ball dropping within the golf cup.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein a top edge surface of the golf cup sleeve abuts a bottom surface of an annular ridge of the golf cup after the golf cup sleeve is inserted into the golf cup.